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Mme. Nhu: Petite Lady & Tough Talk

With Rome Press...The Repartee Is Pointed

By Sanche de Gramont
Of The Herald Tribune Staff



Associated Press cablephoto

WHITE HOUSE HUDDLE—President Kennedy, right, conferring yesterday with Gen. Maxwell Taylor, left, and Defense Secretary McNamara shortly before they flew to South Viet Nam to appraise the turbulent situation and the future role of the U. S.

VIET FEUD: INSIDE STORY— 'McNAMARA WAR' IN CAPITAL

(Continued from page one)

is top priority, they added. What Messrs. Hilsman, Harriman and their advocates have committed is the sin of trying to do in Viet Nam what they think can be done in the U. S.

When recently-arrived U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge first got to Saigon, these sources continued, he accepted the "Gung Ho" line. Then, they declared, Ambassador Lodge came to the conclusion that getting rid of the Diem regime and the Nhus—and only a vacuum for replacement—would be disaster.

"You've got to win a war with something and someone," one source observed. In Saigon, President Diem's brother, who is his chief political adviser, generated some steam of his own. He charged that the U. S. Embassy was sheltering a Communist agent.

He made the charge in an interview with a correspondent of the Toronto Globe and Mail. It referred obviously to Buddhist leader Thich Tri Quang, who fled to the embassy with two other Buddhist priests.

Regime crackdowns in South Viet Nam on Buddhists and students, have provoked international recrimination and indignation. They also have led to the interminable quarrel among official Americans and re-

porters on the scene that so heatedly divides them today.

To try and get some sense of all-out unity among the Americans assigned to military and non-military posts in South Viet Nam is the fact-finding purpose of Secretary McNamara and Gen. Taylor. They've left the feud with State simmering—until they return. In Mr. McNamara's mind, sources said, it's that case of the cable that burns.

Reds Seize 2 British Teachers

From Cable Dispatches

SAIGON.

Communist guerrillas seized two young British school teachers, wounded one of them, but fled when U. S. Army planes and helicopters flew to the scene.

The incident occurred at a resort 40 miles southeast of here as local authorities reported more South Vietnamese reinforcements were being rushed to the Mekong Delta. Communists have been reported in the rice-rich area in growing strength.

The British school teachers rescued were James Kinnaird and Alan Darby. Mr. Kinnaird, trying to escape before the rescue, was shot in the thigh. His condition is not serious.

Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu, the petite First Lady of South Viet Nam, said yesterday her beleaguered nation is "obliged to trust the United States" despite the plots of "irresponsible" Americans who are "trying to sabotage official policy."

Mme. Nhu said the plotters were "uninteresting junior officials," and added that she was happy to see secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor going to Viet Nam.

"The more senior officials they send the better it is. They are more responsible than the people who are sabotaging the policies of the United States," she said.

Occasionally drowned out by sidewalk demonstrators, Mme. Nhu received the Roman press corps at the South Viet Nam Embassy and lived up to her reputation. She looked as fragile as a porcelain figurine and turned out to be as tough as steel.

Asked to comment on reports that France fosters a policy of neutralism for South Viet Nam, Mme. Nhu said:

"I know what neutralism is because women have been practicing it for thousands of years. It is a policy of weakness and caprice. Neutralism is only valuable when



Associated Press

Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu being explicit at her news conference in Rome yesterday.

the neutralist commits himself."

Mme. Nhu said that all but 10 of the hundreds of Buddhists seized in the Aug. 21 raids on pagodas have been released. She reiterated her contention that Communists had infiltrated the Buddhist religious movement.

103 Argue Slum Plans

The City Planning Commission adjourned hearings on proposals to designate the St. Nicholas Park area and the Cooper Square area for urban renewal at 11 p. m. last night after hearing 103 proponents and opponents of the plans.

The Commission reserved decision on the proposals that provide for rehabilitation of dilapidated and rundown multiple dwellings in the two areas as a way of stemming the growth of slum areas.

It will resume hearings today on three other areas designated in the plan—the Children's Museum area, Brooklyn; the Bronx Park West area, and the Corona East—Elmhurst Extension area, Queens.

The Communists used Buddhism, she said, because Viet Nam is "perhaps the only country in the world which is not giving up. So many countries gave up without a struggle. In my country there is a showdown and we are winning."

"We are winning for three reasons—the strategic hamlets, the tactic of swift counter-attack and the policy of taking prisoners alive. In five months more than 10,000 rebels have left their own ranks and joined us."

O'Faolain's new novel

A young girl deeply affects the lives of two older men—yet remains untouched, protected by her innocence. "Too Beautiful, Too Good," by Sean O'Faolain, in...

OCTOBER LADIES HOME
JOURNAL
A Curtis Magazine

SAIL
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NGL
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